

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

Executive Office,
State of Texas.

Austin, Texas, March 10, 1911.

To the Senate:

Senate bill No. 68, being "An Act to amend Section 129, Acts of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of Texas, relating to scholastic age and to amend Section 89, Chapter 124, of the Acts of the Twenty-ninth Legislature relating to the scholastic census and declaring an emergency," is herewith returned to the Senate without approval.

The bill increases the scholastic age from 17 to 20 years. According to the last scholastic census there were 968,269 children in this State entitled to the benefits of the public free schools. The Automatic Tax Board, prior to my incumbency of the Governor's office, fixed the tax rate for public free school purposes at sixteen and two-thirds cents on the hundred dollars, and the State Board of Education apportioned \$6.50 per capita for the scholastic year ending August 31, 1911. The bill herewith returned contains an emergency clause and becomes effective immediately upon its approval, thus increasing the scholastic population by enactment of the Legislature, estimated at two hundred thousand. Under the present law the State is undertaking to give free education to all of its children between the ages of seven and seventeen years, making ten years during which time the child has an opportunity to get a common school education.

There is no man in Texas more earnestly in favor of public schools than myself, but when the State furnishes to its children ten years of free school training and in addition provides a splendid University and the Agricultural and Mechanical College and four splendid Normal Schools at which they can round out and complete their education on free tuition I am of the opinion that it is an adequate and generous provision on the part of the State. If the scholastic age is increased the scholastic apportionment would have to be reduced or else the school tax rate increased. I do not believe there is any public demand that the scholastic age should be increased.

There are other valid and good objections to the bill but the foregoing constitutes abundant reasons for disapproval of this proposed measure.

Respectfully submitted,
O. B. COLQUITT,
Governor of Texas.